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**PRIMAVERA  
FOUNDATION**

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## PRESS RELEASE

# Primavera Foundation Hosts Annual Homeless Memorial on December 21

Commemorates National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day at Evergreen Cemetery



**Tucson, Arizona, December 7, 2017** – People in the Tucson community have died without a place to call home this year.

They have died of exposure to the cold, or the heat, of ill-health, or they were murdered in unprovoked hate crimes. Their deaths go unmarked by society.

The Primavera Foundation joins over 150 cities and counties across the nation commemorating National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day, giving a voice to those who once lived on the streets and in desert washes.

The 2017 Homeless Memorial event brings attention to the tragedy of homelessness and honors those who have passed away on the streets.

The gathering is also a call to action to end homelessness in Tucson and the U.S.

“We will honor those who have died this year while experiencing poverty and homelessness, and we will recognize that to prevent such deaths in the future we must work to ensure everyone has access to safe, affordable housing, which is a basic human right,” said Peggy Hutchison, Chief Executive Officer of the Primavera Foundation.

The lives of persons who died this year in poverty and/or homelessness in Tucson will be honored with live music by Tony Redhouse, a World-Beat percussionist; remarks from elected officials, well-known homeless advocates, service providers, local religious leaders, concerned citizens, and people who were formerly homeless; along with additional reflections and readings.

The memorial service is open to the public and will take place on Thursday, December 21 from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Evergreen Cemetery, held at the west end at the County Plot.

Donations of backpacks and “Winter Survival Kits” are welcomed and appreciated (kits are 1-gallon zipped plastic bags containing socks, winter hat, gloves, lotion/sunscreen, lip balm, snacks, water bottle, and a \$5 gift card to a grocery store/restaurant).

### **ABOUT THE PRIMAVERA FOUNDATION**

The Primavera Foundation provides pathways out of poverty through safe, affordable housing, workforce development, and neighborhood revitalization. Primavera’s vision promotes social and economic justice, while working to build a future in which all people are assured basic human rights, a livable income, and safe, affordable housing. Primavera’s continuum of services over the past 34 years focus on the following four pathways: 1) survival – emergency shelters, drop-in resource centers, homeless prevention and intervention; 2) stability – safe, affordable housing, job readiness skills, temporary and permanent employment, water harvesting, and drug treatment alternative to prison; 3) security – financial education and homebuyer education, financial and housing counseling, and affordable homeownership opportunities; and 4) sustainability – working collaboratively with a variety of multi-sector community partners on neighborhood revitalization, resident engagement, leadership development, education, and advocacy to create greater equity, healthy neighborhoods, and to support collective action around critical policy issues impacting low-income working families.

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